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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our Governments, we have the honour to transmit the text of a joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan - the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States participating in the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in Tajikistan - issued on 13 October 1994 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its attachment circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(Signed) A. AITMATOV
Acting Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations

(Signed) V. SIDOROV
Acting Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(Signed) F. TESHABAEV
Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations

Annex

Joint Statement on Tajikistan issued on 13 October 1994

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan - the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States participating in the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in Tajikistan - have reviewed the current situation in and around that country, in the light inter alia of the ongoing consideration of the issue of Tajikistan within the United Nations.

Confirming their common approach to the issues relating to Tajikistan, the Ministers express their belief that there is no alternative to a settlement of the Tajik conflict by political means and emphasize the intention of their countries to continue to provide all possible assistance to restore peace and tranquillity in Tajikistan and ensure stability in the region.

The Ministers welcome the process of political transformation that has begun in Tajikistan. They are confident that the forthcoming adoption of the new constitution and the holding of presidential elections in accordance with universally recognized democratic standards and with the participation of international observers will be conducive to the normalization of the situation in the country and progress towards national reconciliation and harmony.

The Ministers highly appreciate the attention which the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, is devoting to the problem of Tajikistan and the efforts of his Special Envoy, Mr. Píriz-Ballón, to foster the continuation of the inter-Tajik dialogue. They note the important positive significance of the Agreement on a Provisional Cease-fire and the Cessation of Other Hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan Border and Within Tajikistan, signed at Teheran in the context of this dialogue. They believe that this Agreement can usher in a new, constructive stage in the quest for a Tajik settlement.

There is now a need to promote the speedy entry into force of this Agreement and strict compliance by the parties with its provisions. The United Nations has an extremely important role to play in this regard.

The Ministers declare the readiness of the Collective Peace-keeping Forces in Tajikistan to assist in maintaining the cease-fire and to work together with the United Nations observers to that end.

They express concern, however, at the recent increase in tension along the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan and also, in particular, at the involvement of mercenaries from third countries in military actions on the side of the armed Tajik opposition. This entails the danger of an intensification and expansion of the conflict.

The ministers call upon the world community and, first and foremost, the countries bordering on Tajikistan to work together to bring about a speedy and peaceful settlement and to do everything necessary to remove this dangerous source of international tension.